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1782-9

20 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT : "White Paper" Statement by
Secretary of Defense

1. On 22 May 1969, the Secretary of Defense presented to the Subcommittee on Department of Defense of the House Committee on Appropriations a prepared statement on the Safeguard ABM system. The statement includes discussion of the size and character of the threat to the continental United States from Soviet and Chinese forces projected over the next five to ten years. The transcript of the statement and accompanying testimony was released to the press on 11 June 1969.

2. No one in the Office of Strategic Research saw the text of the statement before 22 May or the transcript between 22 May and 11 June when it was released. We obtained the U.S. Government Printing Office published pamphlet on 12 June, and on that date prepared the comments (copy attached) which I sent you. (Lest there be some misunderstanding, I should point that these comments were based on comparisons with the NIEs, not on comparing the unclassified version in the pamphlet with some earlier classified version.)

3. We have re-examined the statement in the released transcript to determine the probable origins of the information, estimates and projections given there, and the extent to which those were drawn from or supplied to the Secretary by CIA.

a. The statement is a mixture of material drawn from National Intelligence Estimates, National Intelligence Projections for Planning, current intelligence reports, conclusions and judgments apparently made in the Defense Department, and from one identifiable paper provided the Secretary by CIA.

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b. At one point in the statement (page 8, para. 2), the Secretary said: "However, if the Soviets were to continue to deploy ICBM's at the rate they deployed them in 1967-68, they could have as many as 2,500 by the mid-1970's." This is the only information given in the statement which is traceable to information supplied to the Secretary directly and only by CIA. On 20 April 1969, the Secretary requested the Agency to provide projections of Soviet strategic offensive, strategic defensive, and conventional forces assuming "they continue at present rate of build-up..." OSR supplied such numbers, including the 2,500 ICBMs, in a 22 April memorandum prefaced by explicit caveats (both the request and the response are attached).

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BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.
Director
Strategic Research

Attachments: a/s

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